

III. REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of telephone interviews on February 22 and 23, 2005.

Claims 1-5 and 15-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Bator.

During the interviews, it was pointed out that the present application is entitled to the filing date of provisional application number 60/195,683, filed April 7, 2000, which is earlier than the provisional application number 60/202,507, filed May 5, 2000, of Bator. The Examiner agreed that Bator is not a valid reference. Thus the rejection of claims 1-5 and 15-23 under 35 USC 102 on Bator should be withdrawn.

Claims 6-14 are rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite.

During the interviews, the Examiner stated that claim 6 should not have been so rejected. Further, it was agreed that if claims 7 and 9-12 were amended as done herein, the rejection would no longer apply. Claim 23 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

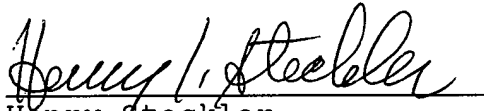
Thus the rejection of claims 6-14 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, should be withdrawn.

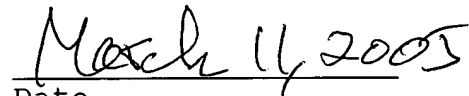
For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should

any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Henry Steckler
Reg. No. 24,139

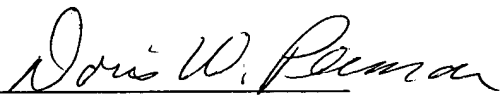

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